

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
for
DRAFT SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION
CHRISTIANSTED BY-PASS
Christiansted, St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands

The Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division (EFLHD), of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Government of the United States Virgin Islands, Public Works Department (PWD), is preparing plans to construct Phase I of the Christiansted By-Pass around the south side of Christiansted on the island of St. Croix. Phase I of the By-Pass is proposed to run from existing Contentment Road (Route 70) in the area of Contentment, east to a terminus at the intersection of Hospital Street/East End Road (Route 75) and Mt. Welcome Road (Route 753). The length of the Phase I work is approximately 1.95 km (1.21 mi). This work has been identified as Project VI NH-66(008).

A Phase II Cultural Resource Survey was prepared in 1998 and determined that the Contentment Road Site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Phase II Cultural Resource Survey recommends that the site be preserved and stabilized so it may serve as a historic site to educate the public about the history of St. Croix. The United States Virgin Islands State Historic Preservation Officer concurs with the determination of eligibility and the recommendation to preserve and stabilize the site. The VI State Historic Office is currently reviewing a draft memorandum of agreement for the protection of the Contentment Road Historic Site.

A Draft 4(f) Evaluation for Construction of Phase I of the Christiansted By-Pass, Christiansted, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands has been prepared by the Federal Highway Administration and is available for public review and comment. This Section 4(f) evaluation documents compliance with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (codified at 23 USC 138 and 49 USC 303). Section 4(f) is applicable because construction of the Christiansted By-Pass will require utilization of land that is a significant historic site due to its designation as being eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The subject 4(f) land area will be under the jurisdiction of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands.

The document will be available for review at the office of the Director of Highway Engineering, Virgin Islands Public Works Department, located at 6002 Anna's Hope, Christiansted, St. Croix, and on the world wide web at www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/nepa.htm. Written comments from the public regarding the Section 4(f) Evaluation are requested, and may be submitted to Mr. Allen W. Burden, Division Engineer, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, FHWA, 21400 Ridgetop Circle, Sterling, VA 20166 until October 12, 2001. Please contact Mr. Jack Van Dop, FHWA, at (703) 404-6282 for any questions related to this announcement.